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SUBJECT Views of Ishafer Deva on the Committee for
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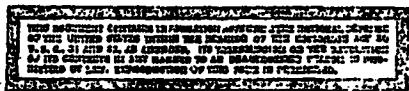
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COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FARLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	Possibly True	Doubtful	Probably False	DENIED
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE The following views of Ishafer Deva have been obtained from a reliable person in his confidence.

1. Ishafer Deva, leader of the Kosovar Albanians in Italy, regards Sajid Kryeziu as a very able and ambitious diplomatist but does not consider him to be a "good Albanian." Kryeziu has managed, Deva says, to maintain to an amazing extent the good will of all groups of anti-Communist Albanians, despite the fact that he has been for years regarded as a Serb or British agent; such a talent, Deva says, is not a negligible one among a small nation which badly needs both unity among its own ranks and friendship with other nations if it is to continue to exist.
2. The Kryeziu family has always been regarded as pro-Serb; proof of their strong ties with Belgrade is the fact that, after World War I, Cane Bay Kryeziu, brother ... was mayor of Jelova in the "Kosovo." In view of the strong hand ... in the Serbs ... only a pure ... nationalism within their own ... the ... only a pure ... of absolute trust to occupy this important ... who served as the intermediary between Zog and Belgrade in 1928, when the Yugoslavs, backed by the British, supported Zog's march on Tirana and seizure of power from the pro-Russian Fan Noli government. In the period immediately following Zog's accession, Cane Bay served as Belgrade's voice in Tirana until he was sent out of the country as Albania's Minister to Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. A few years later, Cane was mysteriously shot down in Prague; although the facts behind his assassination have never been accurately determined, most Albanians believed that Zog had to dispose of him before realigning himself with Italy.
3. Deva, a temperate man not given to making positive statements without being sure of his ground, does not pretend to know to what extent, if at all, Sajid Kryeziu is tied to the present Belgrade government. Although Sajid has widely been accused by Albanians in Italy of serving as a paymaster for Tito, Deva is careful to mention those charges only as "speculation." However, he is convinced that Sajid is loyal first and last to the British, and consequently does not believe him to be a "good Albanian."

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4. In view of Deva's essentially cynical interpretation of the interest shown by the Great Powers in Albania and his strong conviction that it is the Communists who are and have been the real threat to the Balkans (which explains in part his collaboration with the Germans during World War II), he feels that Sajd Kryesin, having helped to carry out the Allied policy which weakened Albania in the face of the Communist threat, cannot have the interests of his own country at heart.
5. Deva believes that the presence of Sajd Kryesin on the Committee for Free Albania is an extremely serious matter, since Sajd is by all odds the most capable and influential person on it, and has demonstrated clearly that he will follow the British lead even when it is in conflict with the interests of his own people. Deva himself is pro-American for the reason that the United States is, he thinks, too far removed from Albania ever to have a selfish interest in the country, but he believes the United States has let itself be duped in giving its support to a Committee completely under the control of the British. Nevertheless, he is more temperate in his attitude toward the Committee for Free Albania than are some of his fellow, for to him the Albanian anti-Communists are beggars, not choosers. In this connection, he reports a conversation with Prince Gjon Marko Gjoni, in which the latter was asked how he stood on the question of the restoration of Zog to the throne. "That is very simple," Marko Gjoni replied; "If the Allies say, 'We want you to have a kingdom, with Zog on the throne' that is what we shall have. If they say, 'A kingdom, without Zog', that is what we shall have. Or if the Americans say, 'We don't like Kings, so you'll have to have a republic', then we'll start looking around for a president."
6. As for the omission of his own Kosovar group from the Committee for Free Albania, Deva says that he understands it. To include his group might offend Tito, and this would be undesirable; the present United States policy toward Tito is completely justified. Deva does not wish to serve in any capacity where his war-time collaboration with the Germans would be embarrassing. Several months ago, in speaking to Zog about an organization of Albanian leaders, he advised the ex-King to omit him from any group which might be constituted, and to include instead Recep Kraniqi, of Damascus, former Albanian Minister of Education, who would be a less controversial figure. At that time Zog said that he would prefer to have Deva himself serve.
7. In connection with Zog's statement on 31 August, proclaiming his own continued claim to being sovereign of the Albanians, Deva intends to support Zog's bid for power, and has advised the leaders of the B.K.I. to do likewise. He suggests that they await a communication from Zog personally informing them of his stand, and that they affirm their loyalty to him as the present constitutional ruler of Albania, without however guaranteeing to support his continued rule should he return to Albania. He agrees with the B.K.I. that a plebiscite should decide the future form of Albania's government, and believes that Zog would live up to his promise to hold one.

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